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JAN 23 1998

January 23, 1998

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**EXPARTE**

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-128 – In the Matter of Implementation of the Pay Telephone  
Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Ms. Salas:

Please enter into the record of the above dockets the attached letter to Rose Crellin of the Enforcement Division of the Common Carrier Bureau. This letter is regarding the provisioning of the FLEX-ANI feature to payphone providers.

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. 1.1206(a)(1) of the Commission's rules, the original of this letter and one copy are being filed with your office. Acknowledgment and date of receipt are requested. A duplicate of this letter is included for this purpose.

Please direct any inquiries concerning the foregoing to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Jines".

Attachment

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January 23, 1998

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**JAN 23 1998**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



Ms. Rose Crellin  
Enforcement Division, Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
2025 M Street, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Crellin:

RE: Flex ANI Waiver Requests -- CC Docket No. 96-128 -- Pay Telephone  
Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of  
1996

On October 30, 1997, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWBT"), Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell filed Comments in CC Docket No. 96-128 which included a discussion of six limited situations for which we requested indefinite waivers of the Commission's requirements to provide payphone-specific digits to carriers. As you know, on January 13, 1998, representatives of SWBT, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell conferenced by telephone with you and Craig Stroup of the FCC staff concerning those six problems. This report is a follow-up to those discussions and provides an updated status. The six situations described in our Comments, for which we requested indefinite waivers, were as follows:

- "0- transfer" and misrouted calls from DMS 200 and DMS 100/200 (SWBT, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell with a combined total of 47 of these switches.)
- Feature Group B 950 calls where the customer is connected at the tandem (SWBT, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell)
- 800 or 888 calls routing to POTS phone numbers (SWBT, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell)

- Calls received over EAOSS trunk groups from DMS end offices (SWBT only)
- Feature Group D 950 calls from 5ESS switches (when industry moves to 4 digit CICs in June of 1998) (SWBT, Pacific Bell, Nevada Bell)
- Calls from SWBT's 63 and Pacific Bell's one DMS 10 switches until those switches are replaced

The following summarizes our current need for waivers for these six situations:

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>% of Payphone Calls Affected<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Waiver Requested Until<sup>2</sup></u>
1. 0- transfer, but not misrouted, calls from DMS 200 and DMS 100/200	SWBT PB	< 1%	10/15/99
2. Feature Group B 950 calls (tandem and end office)	SWBT PB, NB	< ¼ %	1) no waiver due to adequate alternatives, 2) until 6 months after standard developed, or 3) five years
3. 800 or 888 calls routing to a) POTS phone numbers and	a) SWBT PB NB	a) < 1%	a) until 6 months after standard developed, or five years
b) CICs on FGD and/or GR-394 signaling – NORTEL statement indicates Flex ANI not passed	b) SWBT PB NB	b) may be up to 12%	b) 10/15/99
4. Calls received over EAOSS trunk groups from DMS end offices	SWBT	< ½ %	8/15/98
5. FGD 950 calls from 5ESS switches when industry moves to 4 digit CICs	N/A	N/A	Waiver request withdrawn
6. Calls from DMS 10 switches until those switches are replaced	N/A	N/A	Waiver request withdrawn

<sup>1</sup> These are rough estimates because actual numbers are not available.

<sup>2</sup> If we can implement Flex ANI earlier, we intend to do so.

We describe the problem, the size of the problem, and the duration of the problem for each of these six situations in detail below.

### **1. O- TRANSFER CALLS ON DMS 200 AND 100/200 SWITCHES**

a) **The Problem:** The "0- transfer" Flex-ANI problem occurs when a customer dials "0" (without any additional numbers) and gets a Traffic Operator Position System ("TOPS") operator via a DMS 200 or 100/200 switch. The calling customer then requests that the call be transferred to a carrier that participates in SWBT's or Pacific Bell's 0- transfer service. These calls can arrive at the TOPS switch transmitting Flex ANI digits of "07", "27", "29" or "70"; however, the TOPS switch currently can only enter one set of ANI ii digits in the outgoing table. If the incoming ANI ii digit pair is the same as the pair in this table, the ANI ii digit pair is sent forward. Any other incoming ANI ii digit pair, however, results in an ANI ii digit pair of "00" being sent forward on the outgoing call. For instance, if the TOPS facilities manager puts "07" as the supported ANI ii code, then all incoming calls with "07" will be forwarded to the carrier with an ANI ii of "07". All incoming calls with any other ANI ii digits, including "27" digits on a "smart" coin line, will have the ANI ii digits stripped, and the ANI ii digits "00" will be sent to the carrier.

In our Comments, we also stated that the Flex-ANI problem occurs with misrouted calls. NORTEL documentation, however, indicates that misrouted calls should not cause a Flex-ANI problem. We have not conducted tests to verify whether or not NORTEL's documentation is valid, but we no longer have reason to believe there is a problem on misrouted calls.

b) **The Size Of The Problem:** SWBT and Pacific Bell have a combined total of over 1000 switches, but only our 46 DMS 200 and DMS 100/200 Switches have this 0- transfer Flex-ANI problem. SWBT and Pacific Bell estimate that the percentage of payphone calls that are 0- transfer calls on these DMS switches, and thus are affected by this problem, is less than 1%. Nevada Bell does not have a TOPS-Switch Flex-ANI problem because the problem apparently affects only 0- calls, not misrouted calls, and Nevada Bell does not have the 0- product.

c) **The Duration Of The Problem:**

We contacted NORTEL about this problem and provided design requirements to resolve it. NORTEL has initially responded that it expects the Flex ANI feature to be available for TOPS in the TOPS10 release which will not be available until December 1998. SBC is requesting an expedited solution from the vendor, however, and understands that it may be completed as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1998. The actual availability date and cost of the vendor solution depend on input from the industry, not just the SBC Companies.

Given the uncertainty of the availability and the need to implement the solution once it is available, SWBT and Pacific Bell request an 18 month waiver for these switches, in addition to the waiver until April 15, 1998 that we have already requested for general Flex ANI implementation; i.e., until October 15, 1999. If we can resolve the problem earlier, we intend to do so. In the mean time, Flex ANI lists should continue to be used to identify payphone calls.

## **2. FEATURE GROUP B**

**a) The Problem:** ANI ii digits cannot be passed on traditional Feature Group B ("FGB") Service used for 950 calls. FGB originally was intended as a temporary service for deployment of equal access in the public network. Subscribers would dial 950-WXXX<sup>3</sup> or 950-XXXX (for 4-digit CIC) to reach an IXC until the IXC could conform to Feature Group D ("FGD")<sup>4</sup> and the subscribers could be educated to use FGD access. FGB remains popular, however, largely because of its lower rates than FGD.

FGB provides trunk connections to IXCs; it allows customers to use a 950-WXXX or 950-XXXX dialing pattern to seize a trunk to the carrier. The signaling protocols that were designed for FGB as an industry standard do not include ANI information digits that can be used for identifying calls coming from a payphone. Accordingly, with traditional FGB, the end office does not pass any ANI digits to the IXC. Although in our Comments we stated that this problem occurs where the customer is connected at the tandem (which is where most FGB calls are connected), it also occurs on calls that are direct trunked to the IXC from the end office. The problem prevents the passage of all Flex ANI digits, including "27" on "smart" coin lines.

Testing has taken place of a "FGB with ANI option." But that testing involved a single ANI information digit that was outpulsed by the end office switch to the IXC during the call. The single ANI information digit in FGB with ANI option is an industry standard. The single digit is not adequate for payphone identification purposes because Flex ANI for payphone identification requires two digits.

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<sup>3</sup> "W" is "0" or "1", "X" is "0" thru "9", and "XXX" is the carrier identification code ("CIC").

<sup>4</sup> "10XXX" or presubscription.

b) **The Size Of The Problem**: We estimate that this problem affects less than ¼ of one percent of all payphone calls.<sup>6</sup> This estimate is based on calculating the percentage for SWBT calls, and a reasonable belief that the relative size of the problem would be approximately the same for Pacific Bell and for Nevada Bell as for SWBT. (The size of the problem could be increased because of the 4-digit carrier identification code problem discussed below.) To the extent that IXC's use FGD (at a higher price commensurate with its better service features) or continue to use Flex ANI lists, the problem does not exist.

c) **The Duration Of The Problem**: We do not currently know of any potential solution for this problem. Standards changes normally take a minimum of 1 ½ to 3 years, even where there is broad industry support and demand for the change. Industry support is needed to move an item to the top of the list of standards proposals. However, the FGB Flex ANI issue affects a minimal number of calls, and there are existing alternatives to identify payphone calls (the IXC use of FGD or ANI lists). Therefore, we have no reason to believe that industry support will develop for a FGB Flex ANI standard, and do believe that the standards change required for FGB or FGB with ANI option is unlikely to ever occur.

Accordingly, the Commission should find either that (1) no waiver is needed because adequate alternatives exist for the IXC's to meet their burden to identify payphone calls or, in the alternative, that (2) a conditional waiver is warranted until 6

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<sup>6</sup> Although the impact on payphone calls is expected to be very small, FGB is used by a significant number of customers for some traffic. In 1996, SWBT had 95 customers for FGB Service.

months after a standard is developed. Precedent for a conditional waiver caused by technical limitations exists in the *ONA Proceeding* where the Commission granted Pacific Bell conditional waivers for tariffing of Bulk Calling Line Identification ("BCLID") and Deluxe Call Waiting ("DCW").<sup>6</sup> If the Commission decides not to do either of these, it should grant a five year waiver, with the right to request an extension at that time if needed. Again, the *ONA Proceeding* provides precedents for this extended waiver caused by technical limitations.<sup>7</sup>

### **3. 800 OR 888 CALLS**

a) **The Problem:** For DMS switches, ANI ii digits cannot be passed on 800 or 888 calls routing to either "plain old telephone service" ("POTS") phone numbers or, according to NORTEL's statement, carrier identification codes ("CICs"). This problem affects our own IntraLATA 800 services, just as it does the 800 services of other carriers. The problem also affects the passage of "27" digits on "smart" coin lines, just as it does other Flex ANI codes. On calls to CICs, however, hard-coded "27" or "07" would be sent.

The ANI ii digits are lost in the process of querying the 800 database. In this process, for all outgoing 800 calls, the end office switch launches a query to the 800

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<sup>6</sup> The Common Carrier Bureau granted the waivers until six months after a *bona fide* request from a prospective customer for BCLID or DCW. *Petition for Waivers by Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell*, CC Docket Nos. 90-623 and 88-2, Phase I, *Order*, 11 FCC Rcd 14338, paras. 7 & 9 (1996).

<sup>7</sup> The Common Carrier Bureau granted waivers for up to five years. *See, e.g., Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell Notice and Petition for Removal of the Structural Separation Requirement and Waiver of Certain Federal and State Tariffing Requirements*, CC Docket Nos. 90-623 and 88-2, Phase I, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 8 FCC Rcd 3982, para. 11 (1993).



data base. If the 800 data base has a POTS routing number, rather than a CIC, the telephone number is returned and the Service Switching Point ("SSP") replaces the ANI ii digits with the digits "24" in order to identify the call as an 800 call. Thus, the ANI ii digits are lost from the call origination and not sent to the carrier.

In our Comments, we stated that, if the call is interLATA, the 800 data base returns a CIC, and the switch forwards the 800 number and the ANI ii payphone digits to the appropriate carrier. However, after we filed our Comments, NORTEL stated that the sending of Flex ANI digits on FGD and/or GR-394 signaling is not supported for 800 completions to an IXC.<sup>8</sup> Based on the statement, the DMS switch does not forward the correct Flex ANI on 800 routed calls, whether to POTS numbers or CICs. NORTEL's statement indicated that on calls to CICs, the switch has the original Flex ANI digits, but they are not propagated forward on 800 data responses which include the carrier code for routing; instead of Flex ANI digits, the DMS switch sends hard-coded "27" or "07" digits on carrier routed 800 calls.

**b) The Size Of The Problem:** We estimate that the 800/888 POTS problem affects less than 1% of payphone calls. This estimate is based on calculations of SWBT traffic and a reasonable belief that the relative size of the problem is approximately the same size for Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell as for SWBT.

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<sup>8</sup> Additionally, based on this NORTEL statement, Flex ANI digits are not sent on MOSS or EAOSS signaled 800 calls to an IXC. (These calls would involve operator dialed 800 calls, which do not normally occur.)

We estimate that the NORTEL-reported 800/888 CIC problem could represent as high as 12% of payphone calls for SWBT, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell. This estimate is based on two additional estimates: that approximately ½ of all payphone lines are in DMS switches and that approximately ¼ of payphone traffic is dial around access code or subscriber 800 traffic.<sup>9</sup> This is a rough estimate because it is difficult to keep track of 800 calls.

c) The Duration Of The Problem: For the 800/888 POTS problem, we do not currently know of any solution, although we have requested NORTEL to seek and provide an interpretation of the conflicts on these calls. The current replacement of the Flex ANI digits with "24" is an industry standard on all switch types to 1) indicate an 800 call, 2) generate the routing to the POTS number, and, as a result, 3) create the correct AMA record. Changing the standard would involve the same hurdles as those identified above for changing the FGB standard, and the Commission should grant the alternative relief that we recommended there; *i.e.*, a conditional waiver until 6 months after the standard is changed or a five year waiver. Per call compensation on 800 POTS calls should continue to be accommodated by use of the ANI list.<sup>10</sup>

For the 800/888 CIC problem, we submitted a Request for Feature to NORTEL and are awaiting a response. Thus, the situation is similar to that of the 0- transfer problem discussed above; based on NORTEL's statement, both vendor work and our

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<sup>9</sup> See *Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-128, *Second Report and Order*, released October 9, 1997, n. 127.

<sup>10</sup> As a supplement, SWBT is implementing a billing process that will allow per-call compensation to payphone providers for 800 POTS calls handled by SWBT.

implementation work are expected to be required. Therefore, the Commission should grant the same waiver extension for this problem as for the 0- transfer problem, 18 months beyond the April 15, 1998 date we requested for Flex ANI in general (i.e., until October 15, 1999). If we can resolve the problem earlier, we intend to do so. In the mean time, Flex ANI lists should continue to be used to identify payphone calls.

**4. SWBT'S EQUAL ACCESS OPERATOR SERVICES SIGNALING ("EAOSS") TRUNK GROUPS FROM DIGITAL MULTIPLEXING SYSTEM ("DMS") END OFFICES**

a) **The Problem:** Flex ANI ii digits are not received over SWBT's EAOSS trunk groups from DMS end offices. Instead, hard-coded "07" and "27" digits are passed.

b) **The Size Of The Problem:** Of the three SBC LECs, only SWBT has EAOSS. SWBT estimates that less than 1/2 of 1 percent of payphone calls are affected.

c) **The Duration Of The Problem:** We submitted a Request For Feature to NORTEL and received a response that the solution should be available in February. Installation could take 6 months. Therefore, we request a waiver of 4 months beyond the April 15, 1998 general waiver that we have already requested; i.e., until August 15, 1998. If we can resolve the problem earlier, we intend to do so. In the mean time, Flex ANI lists should continue to be used to identify payphone calls.

**5. 4-DIGIT CICs**

a) **The Problem:** In our Comments, we stated that it appears that Flex ANI ii digits will no longer be able to be passed with 950 calling on FGD from 5ESS switches when the industry moves to mandatory 4-digit CICs in June of 1998. This belief was based on the fact that the "transitional" translations currently used at an end office to

provide 950 calling on FGD and to provide Flex ANI will not support 4-digit CICs.<sup>11</sup> We indicated that if we changed to "interim" translations to attempt to solve the 4-digit CIC problem, we could no longer pass Flex ANI.

We have since confirmed that the transitional translations for 950 calling on FGD (also known as "FGB over D"), which do pass Flex ANI, will not support 4-digit CICs. However, moving to "interim" translations to attempt to solve the 4-digit CIC problem, would require moving from FGB over D to FGB. Thus, the 4-digit CIC problem would not create a new type of Flex ANI problem. To the extent that carriers move to FGB in order to have 4-digit CICs, that will increase the FGB Flex ANI problem that we described above, but will not create a new type of Flex ANI problem.

Accordingly, we withdraw our extended waiver request for this area. (We retain our general Flex ANI waiver request for an extension to April 15, 1998.)

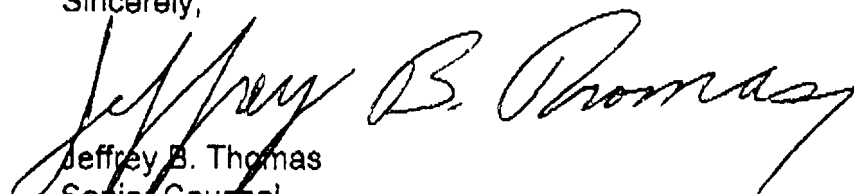
**6. DMS-10 SWITCHES** Since the filing of our Comments, this Flex ANI problem has been resolved. Accordingly, SWBT and Pacific Bell withdraw their waiver requests for this area. (We retain our general waiver request for an extension to April 15, 1998.)

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<sup>11</sup> FGB over D still uses a 950-WXXX dialing pattern, and this pattern limits the number of CIC digits (in this example, the number of "Xs") to three digits. However, CIC code expansion occurred in FGB when standards were revised to allow 950-XXXX dialing in FGB.

For all the reasons discussed, the Commission should grant SWBT, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell the above-described waivers of the Flex ANI implementation requirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey B. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being more prominent and the last name "Thomas" following in a similar style.

Jeffrey B. Thomas  
Senior Counsel  
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company,  
Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell

CC: Craig Stroup

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